

Springerville Town Council
Minutes
February 15, 2006

Present: Mayor Kay Dyson, Vice Mayor Mary Nedrow, Pete Hunt, Mark Baca and Scott Cray.

Absent:

Staff: Scott Garms Town Manager, Sterling Solomon Town Attorney, Larisa Bogardus, James Hamblin, Max Sadler.

Public: Phelps Wilkins, Jack Husted, Penny Pew, Leighann Hamblin and Judy Hayes.

1. Mayor Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. The Pledge of allegiance was led by Councilman Baca, Invocation by Councilman Cray.
3. Public Participation: None.
4. Manager, Council and Chamber reports:

Councilman Cray said he'd attended a Blue Hills meeting and revenue was up. They are buying new heavy equipment and gave acting manager Ray Davis a raise and promotion.

Mayor Dyson reported an anti-meth coalition is forming in Apache Co. The emergency preparedness office is holding a stress management class March 17. Also, the Forest Service is holding a Wilderness training at Eagar Town Hall March 23. The health care district is considering building a clinic in Round Valley like the one in St. Johns and is considering several pieces of property. There will be a meeting on this subject at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the senior center. Supervisor David Brown is out of the hospital and convalescing in Phoenix. Mayor Dyson has an address if anyone wants to send a card.

Mr. Garms reported that the proposed HURF reimbursement bill has passed committee and must now pass both houses of the legislature. This bill would require the state to repay the HURF monies diverted for other uses.

Ms. Bogardus reported on behalf of the chamber that an International Food Festival is planned March 11. Six service organizations are participating and will divide the profits.

Vice Mayor Nedrow asked the status of hiring a new director. Ms. Bogardus said the application deadline is Feb. 17 and there were at least 6. Vice Mayor Nedrow asked if the town has a say in the hiring decision since the town funds the chamber. Jack Husted said there is a 5-member executive committee that will review the applications. If they are not satisfied with the quality of applicants they can readvertise. The chamber board as a whole, which includes council representatives, would have to approve any hiring.

Mayor Dyson presented a certificate of appreciation to Sterling Solomon, who has served as the town attorney for several years. He is starting his own practice.

Ms. Bogardus reported that the utility easement for water and sewer across the Mountain Gateway RV Park has been filed. It was delayed while the project was in bankruptcy, however, the property has reverted to the original owners, who were willing to cooperate with the town and get this done.

5. Minutes: Consider approval of the minutes from the town council meeting held on Feb. 1, 2006, at 6 p.m.

Scott Cray/Mark Baca motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2006.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

6. Discussion, second reading and action regarding ordinance #2006-002 amending Title 8 "Health and Safety" of the Springerville Municipal Code.

Mayor Dyson reminded the council that this puts teeth in the junk vehicle section of the code and cleans up some other items.

Pete Hunt/Scott Cray motion to adopt Ord. 2006-002.

Vice Mayor Nedrow asked if the town was going to help people who can't afford to get rid of old vehicles. Ms. Bogardus said yes. Mr. Garms said this is only a final resort, the intent is to work with people to avoid this. Mayor Dyson said Round Valley Clean and Green used to help with this and she'd like to see the Community Development office take it on.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

7. Discussion and presentation by Elections Director Penny Pew regarding the new election requirements.

Mrs. Pew presented informational packets to each councilperson about the new requirements for identification at the polls before voting. This is a result of the voter-approved Prop. 200. Voters must show a photo ID with the same address as their voter registration. If they cannot show this, two other items showing their name and address, such as utility bills or voter ID cards, will be accepted. If they cannot do this, they will be allowed to vote a "provisional" ballot, which will not be counted until the signature is matched to the voter registration. Mrs. Pew said she expects this to be frustrating for many voters. Also, the person must come back with proper ID within 3 days of the election. Voters can still vote early without showing identification, however, the legislature is considering changing this.

Mayor Dyson asked if translators will be available at the polls. Mrs. Pew said yes, several have been hired in Eagar and Springerville.

8. Discussion and action regarding the Town of Springerville's participation in the White Mountain Regional Transportation Committee and accompanying funding request.

Mr. Garms explained that the region currently does not have a representative on the Arizona Department of Transportation Board and, as a result, has not gotten a lot of projects funded. He introduced Jack Husted, who served on that board in the 1990s and is organizing this effort.

Mr. Husted said urban areas hire full-time lobbyists to represent their interests to ADOT and the ADOT board. The last project in this area was the climbing lanes on U.S. 60 at the summit, which he lobbied for throughout his term on the board and just came to fruition a few years ago. The best strategy is to speak as a region and coordinate objectives. As construction costs go up, fewer projects will be funded and there will be more competition for those funds. By hiring Mr. Husted as the regional liaison, he can track projects and ADOT activities and alert the leadership when important issues are coming up.

Councilman Cray asked about accountability for these services. Would results be guaranteed? Mr. Husted said he couldn't guarantee results, but he could guarantee the region won't get anything without representation. The scope of work would have some specifics regarding Mr. Husted's activities, which

could be reviewed. Mr. Husted also warned that some projects might not be located in specific communities, such as improvements to U.S. 60 in Salt River Canyon, but would benefit the region by making the White Mountains more accessible.

Mr. Garms said the only rural representative on the ADOT board now is from Flagstaff. Mayor Dyson noted there are no major projects planned for the White Mountains for the next 20 years.

Projects are supposed to be needs-based, but the board has to be told of the needs, Mr. Husted said.

Transportation is key to economic development and tourism, and it is important to have someone representing the White Mountains to ADOT, Mayor Dyson said.

Councilman Cray asked how much time Mr. Husted would devote to the job. Mr. Husted said the committee would be a client of his political consulting firm. Time spent would vary on the time of year and projects, but he felt 2 or 3 days a month, minimum.

Councilman Hunt asked if the region had lost projects by not having representation. Mr. Husted said that was hard to assess, but the most obvious has been cutbacks in maintenance funds. That is illustrated by the roughness of Hwy. 191 to Interstate 40. Small projects such as deceleration turn lanes have fallen by the wayside, too.

Mayor Dyson asked if Mr. Husted would submit reports of his activities. He said he would report to the committee and hoped the committee would pass those on to the communities.

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt motion to contribute \$1,500 for the rest of this fiscal year and \$3,000 for next fiscal year to participate in the White Mountains Regional Transportation Committee.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Pete Hunt
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	Nays:	Scott Cray
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Councilman Hunt asked where the money was coming from. Mr. Garms said the town has a slight surplus in some areas that can be used.

Councilman Cray asked if HURF monies could be used. Mr. Garms said no, that has already been investigated.

When asked, Mr. Husted said Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Snowflake and Navajo County have already voted to join the committee.

9. Discussion and first reading of ordinance #2006-003 amending Chapter 17.28 "General Provisions" of the Springerville Municipal Code.

Ms. Bogardus explained that this is in response to several matters. The zoning code is exclusionary, meaning if a use isn't listed, it isn't allowed at all. Currently, travel trailers and recreational vehicles cannot be used outside designated parks. Planning and Zoning has recognized that there are some instances in which they might legitimately be used outside designated parks. For some time, Apache Co. has allowed homebuilders to live in their RVs during construction by a conditional use permit. Eagar allows temporary use of RVs for guests to allow visitors more privacy.

Attorney Solomon complimented Ms. Bogardus on a well-written ordinance and said he has received compliments on her work from other attorneys as well.

10. Discussion and first reading of ordinance #2006-004 amending Chapter 13.16 "Sewer System Use Regulations" of the Springerville Municipal Code.

Mr. Garms explained that this will allow the town to enforce ADEQ hookup mandates and also generate new sewer customers.

Councilman Cray asked if the health department should be listed as the responsible agency for septic systems. Ms. Bogardus said no, that is through ADEQ and the Department of Health Services.

Councilman Hunt asked how the public would be made aware of this. Ms. Bogardus said this is fairly common and Eagar has required it for several years. She will notify local newspapers, realtors and title companies.

Mr. Wilkins asked as a homeowner, if he would have to pay to extend sewer lines across the street to his property. Also, he would have to install a lift station because his property is at a lower elevation.

11. Discussion and action regarding resolution #2006-R003 approving an application for local, regional and state parks heritage funds for improvements to Pioneer Park.

Mr. Garms asked that this be tabled until a budget for the project could be determined.

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt motion to table Resolution 2006-R003.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

12. Discussion and action regarding proposed amendments to the policies governing advisory committees.

Mr. Garms explained that the town has three advisory committees each of which operates under a different policy. One committee has town staff clerking meetings and taking minutes, one had a committee member doing it until that person quit because of the burden. The state does not require minutes and it is an unnecessary expense as well as poor use of staff time. He proposed a standard policy of not requiring minutes.

Scott Cray/Mark Baca motion to approve the standard policy.

Councilman Hunt said there needs to be some records, such as agendas. Mr. Garms said the chair would be responsible for agendas and staff could take notes. Also, meetings can be recorded for reference purposes.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

13. Discussion and action regarding a presentation by the Fire Chief providing for a fee for service process for calls for fire department services in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Chief Sadler said Eagar is pursuing this and he has been wanting to do this for a long time. It would allow the town to charge for costs associated with fire services outside the municipal boundaries. The towns have provided fire and motor vehicle accident coverage to the unincorporated areas of the county for a long time, but the burden has grown from a few structures near the town limits to all of Vernon and Nutrioso. A recent house fire in Nutrioso cost Eagar Fire Department \$7,000 to \$9,000 in personnel and supplies.

Councilman Cray asked if the charges would offset the fire department's expenses. Chief Sadler said the revenue would go into the general fund. Mr. Garms said general fund revenue is distributed among all departments, so indirectly, yes. Because the county is not required to provide emergency services, residents must either form their own fire districts, contract for private services, be annexed into a

municipality or pay for municipal services. If they don't pay, the citizens of Springerville are subsidizing services out of town.

Mayor Dyson expressed concern that firefighters might not be able to respond to an in-town fire when they are out of town on a call. Chief Sadler said Springerville and Eagar work together to ensure that the communities are covered at all times. If a choice has to be made, they will refuse to respond to the out-of-town call.

Council directed staff to develop a rate schedule and bring it back for consideration.

14. Discussion and action authorizing the Finance Department to create a municipal accounting fund 22 for the tracking of airport revenues and expenses.

Mr. Hamblin said the airport revenues and grants are channeled through the general fund. He would like to create a separate account. It does not change or affect the budget, only tracking.

Mary Nedrow, Pete Hunt motion to authorize the creation of fund 22.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

15. Discussion and action establishing a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program in accordance with regulations of the US Department of Transportation 49 CFR Part 26.

Scott Cray, Mary Nedrow motion to authorize the DBE program.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Pete Hunt
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

16. Discussion and presentation by James Hamblin regarding an informational update on the Springerville Municipal Airport and the master planning process. Mr. Hunt left during the discussion.

Mr. Hamblin distributed handouts so the council could follow the discussion. Several grant-funded projects are in the works. While she was acting manager in 2002, Mayor Dyson persuaded the FAA to allow the town to keep an \$89,000 surplus from the Papi lights project for fencing. That is not enough for the fencing, but was again reallocated for a complete airport survey, boundary marking, engineering for the fencing and installation of a master gate at the airport with a keypad entry system. This should be completed by May 30.

The airport master plan grant was awarded Nov. 9 and is being coordinated by Armstrong Consulting. The first planning advisory committee meeting has been held and the consultants are developing a five-year plan to be presented at a public hearing in March.

An ADOT Aviation grant (the only grant that is not jointly funded by FAA and ADOT) is paying for a rates and charges study to determine what similar-size airports in other parts of the state and country are charging for services and facilities.

The latest project is upgrades to the facility. First will be fixing and upgrading the two ramps, both of which have large failure cracks in them. The bases will be replaced and ramp 2, which services the Forest Service site, will be extended 50x400 feet. Three concrete slabs will be added for helicopters and a private taxiway will be developed between the two ramps in case of a major incident requiring both. This meets the Forest Service's needs and they are willing to pay higher lease rates for the improvements. A new Air Weather Automated System (AWAS) will be installed; a new, larger beacon; and a lighted segmented circle will be installed. Total for this project is about \$1.812 million. The town

must match \$45,000, but most of that can be in-kind administration and public works. The FAA and ADOT are very interested in seeing the airport developed to its potential. We had fallen behind other airports in the region, but are catching up and will exceed them.

Mr. Garms said Mr. Hamblin has done an excellent job with the airport. Many of these projects would not be happening if not for his interest and efforts. The airport is a major asset and will continue to be.

17. Adjournment:

Scott Cray/Mary Nedrow motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

Kay Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday February 15, 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2006

Larisa Bogardus